BUILTH & COLWYN

Rural District Councils.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st,

1894.

By W. W. BALDOCK FRY,

M.B. & C.M., EDIN., Etc.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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THE RURAL DISTRICTS

OF

Builth and Colwyn.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Builth Rural District Council,

AND

To the Chairman and Members of the
Colwyn Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report, as Medical Officer of Health, of the Births, Deaths, and Sanitary state, together with such steps as have been taken to improve the same and to check the spread of disease, in the Districts of Builth and Colwyn during the year ending December 31st, 1894.

This being the first Report made to you since the formation of the District Councils under the Local Government Act, 1894, I venture to make a combined Report to both Councils, seeing that the two Districts were administered together during last year. I have, however, prepared separate Tables of Births, Deaths, and Sickness, as directed by the Local Government Board.

STATISTICS.

Births, Deaths, and Sickness.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BUILTH.

Births.

During the year the Births of 133 children were registered in the sub-districts of Abergwessin and Builth; of these 63 were males and 70 females.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Abergwessin	37	38	75
Builth	26	32	58
Totals	63	70	133

The Birth-rate being 28·26 per thousand.

Deaths.—table a.

The number of Deaths registered amounted to 65, the Death-rate being 13·81 per thousand.

The Infant mortality, that is to say, the number of children dying under one year of age for every thousand born, reaches the high figure of 90·22. The chief cause of this appears to be the improper feeding of infants. There were but 5 deaths from consumption, and 4 from other pulmonary diseases. From zymotic diseases there were 4 from diphtheria and one from puerperal fever.

RURAL DISTRICT OF COLWYN.

Births.

During the year 58 Births were registered; of these 33 were males and 25 females.

The Birth-rate being 33·25 per thousand.

Deaths.

The number of Deaths registered amounted to 35, giving a Death-rate of 19·83 when duly corrected.

The Infant mortality reaches the very high figure of 120·68 per thousand births registered.

There were no deaths from zymotic disease in the

District, and but 2 from consumption, and 9 from other pulmonary diseases. Accidental injury caused three deaths, namely, one each of drowning, gun-shot wound, and a kick from a horse.

Measures taken to Prevent the Spread of Disease.

The Vaccination returns continue to show most satisfactory results, all the children being accounted for.

Sanitary Supervision of the Districts.

The Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. T. L. Thomas) and myself have periodically visited the following places and parishes :—

Aberedw,	Garth,	Llanganten,
Abergwessin,	Howey,	Llanafan,
Builth Road,	Beulah,	Llanfihangel,
Cefngorwydd,	Llanddewircwm,	Maesmynis,
Cregrina,	Llandrindod,	Nantyrarian,
Crickadarn,	Llanelwedd,	Rhulen,
Erwood,	Llangammarch,	Pentrellwynllwyd.

The Inspector gives me the following brief summary of nuisances which he has reported and had abated :—

Privies requiring emptying	34
Privies requiring repairs	3
Pumps requiring repairs	3
Flushing tank repairs	1
Manure, accumulations of	2
Slop-drains choked	3
Slop-drains required.....	4
Pigs kept in an improper place	1

I reported in March a group of four cottages in Penbuallt being without privy accommodation. A difficulty, however, arose in consequence of there not being any land belonging to the owners of the cottages on which to erect privies, so that the notices were not enforced. I also reported a house in Crickadarn parish as unfit for habitation, and received an assurance from the owner that a new one should be built.

A nuisance arising from an overflow of a cess-pit finding its way into the public road at Llangammarch was promptly remedied.

A nuisance arising from a slop-drain at Garth has as yet not been properly abated, owing to the difficulty of finding the responsible parties. In consequence of the floods in the autumn it has to a large extent remedied itself, and is not at present a public nuisance. In connection with this, a suggestion was made to bring a supply of water to the houses involved (and others), but on inspecting the proposed source I at once condemned it, as there was drainage both from houses and manure heaps into the same.

I am pleased to say that after various representations from me, the London and North Western Railway Company have at last converted the privies of Wye View Terrace, Builth Road, into water-closets, with, I trust, beneficial results to the health of the inhabitants. And the Company have also had some structural alterations made in the station-house, which I considered neeessary to remedy a nuisance arising from the urinals.

Water Supply.

A spring at Llwynhowell farm being, in my opinion, liable to contamination from the drainage of the stable and manure heaps, I drew the attention of the owner to it, and he has had a new supply provided.

The water supply at Troedrhiewgoch, Treflis, is most unsatisfactory, the spring being close to and below the level of the house and stable, from which fouled water may be seen running within a few inches of the spring. Upon writing to the owner, I immediately had a reply assuring me that the matter should be rectified without delay.

I am very pleased to report that a supply of water has been provided at the schools at Beulah and Abergwessin, and automatic flushing water-closets fixed, which act efficiently.

At Rhulen School, a dry-earth system has been put up in the closets.

I wish again to draw your attention to the great need of a supply of good water to the schools in your districts.

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(A)

TABLE of DEATHS during the Year 1894, in the Builth Union. BUILTH Rural District.

Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Puerperal.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	All other Diseases.	Total.
ABERGWESSIN	39	9	2	5	1	6	16	Under 5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	10	11
								5 upwds.	4	1	1	..	2	3	4	13	28
BUILTH	26	3	..	5	2	9	7	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
								5 upwds.	..	1	..	1	3	1	4	13	23
Totals	65	12	2	10	3	15	23	Under 5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	13	14
								5 upwds.	4	2	1	1	5	4	8	26	51

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among people belonging thereto	0
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	0

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

AREA IN ACRES			91,690
POPULATION			4706
DEATH RATES.	General	13·81	per 1000 Population.
	Infant	90.22	per 1,000 Births Registered.

W. W. BALDOCK FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb. 9th, 1895.

(A)

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Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Puerperal.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	All other Diseases.	Total.
ABERGWESSIN	39	9	2	5	1	6	16	Under 5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	10	11
								5 upwds.	4	1	1	..	2	3	4	13	28
BUILTH	26	3	..	5	2	9	7	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
								5 upwds.	..	1	..	1	3	1	4	13	23
Totals	65	12	2	10	3	15	23	Under 5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	13	14
								5 upwds.	4	2	1	1	5	4	8	26	51

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Deaths occurring outside the district among people belonging thereto	0
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	0

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

AREA IN ACRES			91,690
POPULATION			4706
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	Infant	90.22	per 1,000 Births Registered.

W. W. BALDOCK FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb. 9th, 1895.

(A)

TABLE of DEATHS during the Year 1894, in the Builth Union. COLWYN Rural District.

Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adadopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes' distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.						
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
COLWYN..	35	7	5	3	7	13	Under 5.	1	..	8	..	..	3	12
							5 upwds.	..	2	1	2	3	15	23
Total	35	7	5	3	7	13	Under 5.	1	..	8	8	..	3	12
							5 upwds.	..	2	1	1	3	15	23

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto ..	..	0
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	..	1

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

AREA IN ACRES			47,680
POPULATION			1714
DEATH RATES.	General	20·42	per 1000 Population.
	Infant	120·68	per 1,000 Births Registered.

W. W. BALDOCK FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb. 9th, 1895.

(B)

TABLE of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Builth Union, Builth Rural District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.			New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.			
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.
ABERGWESSIN ..	2351	2351	75	Under 5	4	..	..
				5 upwds.	5	14	1
BUILTH	2355	2355	58	Under 5	..	..	..
				5 upwds.	17	1	1
Total	4706	4706	133	Under 5	4	..	..
				5 upwds.	22	15	2

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—No. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital ueed by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situate; and if not within the District, state where it is situated.—There is no Isolation Hospital in or near the District.

(B)

TABLE of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Builth Union, Colwyn Rural District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.			New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.	
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Diphtheria.
COLWYN..	1714	1714	58	Under 5	3
				5 upwds.	4
Total	1714	1714	58	Under 5	3
				5 upwds.	4

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—No. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which the Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is.—There is no Isolation Hospital in or near the District.

I pointed out last year the dangers which might arise from the children not being provided with good water. The cases of Garth and Maesmynis Schools are the most urgent. Two years ago I reported on the case at Garth, together with the neighbouring cottages, and the owner undertook to provide a supply, but I regret to say nothing has been done. I would suggest that you should either require the School authorities to provide water, or do so yourselves.

Infectious Disease.

(TABLE B.)

I regret to report a considerable amount of scarlet fever has been prevalent throughout the Builth District during the year, and also an epidemic of diphtheria. The epidemic of scarlet fever could, I have no doubt, been checked had measures been taken early enough, but owing to the Notification of Diseases (Infectious) Act not being in force, I seldom become aware of an infectious case until convalescence or death occurs, when it is too late to take precautionary measures. I have reason to believe that many cases never come to my knowledge at all, but are carefully concealed, to the great danger of the community at large.

In April a case of scarlet fever occurred at Gaerddu, Llandrindod; this was reported to me, and measures taken to prevent any spreading, with the result that no further cases occurred in that neighbourhood. In the same month a case occurred at Vedwfach, Llanddewircwm, which was doubtless connected with other unreported cases in the parish, though I failed to trace its source. In May other cases occurred in the neighbourhood, namely, at Glanwye and Hainallt. No further cases came to my knowledge till October, when some cases appeared in Llanganten and Rhosferig. In November an adult fell ill with it in Oaklands, the infection coming from Builth, where there had been a few cases in the previous month. In December I heard of two cases at Vedw, Gwenddwr, and upon investigation I found a wide-spread epidemic among the children attending the village school at Gwenddwr, from various farms three or four miles apart and having no communication in common except at the school. As it seemed that

the school was the means of spreading the disease, I recommended that it should be closed for a time.

With regard to the epidemic of diphtheria, there appears to have been two distinct outbreaks: one at Builth Road, where some five or six cases of a mild type occurred, and which I believe were due to the bad sanitary state of the privies; the other at Beulah, during the last four months of the year. I made a special report of this outbreak, drawing attention to:—

1st, All the cases occurred on a peaty soil.
2nd, The exceptionally heavy rainfall.
3rd, The drinking water being obtained from shallow wells.
4th, The probable contamination of two springs.
5th, The probable, though not certain, connection of all the cases, three of which were fatal.

There was an isolated case in October at Croganbach, Llanfihangel-Brynpabuan, which proved fatal; this was also reported upon specially.

I recommended the late Sanitary Authority on more than one occasion to adopt the Notification Act, and I now strongly urge upon both District Councils to adopt it. No less than nearly 90 per cent. of the population of the United Kingdom have, through their representatives on the various Sanitary Authorities, adopted the Act, as it has proved so advantageous, not only from a sanitarian's point of view, but from an economical one. Why should you be behind the time? The adjoining Sanitary Authority of Kington has recently taken it up, and the town of Builth has it in force, where, however, it can avail little unless the surrounding districts enforce it, seeing that there is constant communication. Oaklands, in reality a part of the town, separated by a rivulet a yard wide, may have infectious cases existing, and no precautions taken to prevent neighbours indiscriminately visiting and coming in contact with the sick, thereby contracting and conveying the disease. An erroneous idea as to its cost seems to prevail. The sum expended for the certificates of notification would probably not average more than £2 or £3 per year in the two districts,

and it does not require much calculation to show that it is cheaper to spread such a sum over the whole community in order to try to prevent sickness entering a family, entailing a greater expense to the individual, without even considering the fact that deaths may result (and have so resulted in these districts) from infections, and, to large extent, preventable disease. The adoption of the Act does not benefit the Medical Officer of Health, as such, as no fees are paid to him.

I beg also to suggest to the Councils the advisability of framing a few Bye-Laws and Regulations in matters affecting the Public Health, which would render their work smoother and more regular, and the action of their officers more efficacious. I refer to Bye-laws as to the erection of new buildings, their water supply and drainage, the keeping of pigs near houses in villages, the accumulation of manure, etc. There would be much less friction with the general public by preventing a nuisance arising than, as is done at present, waiting till such nuisance arises, and then taking proceedings to have it abated.

Rainfall.

The rainfall registered by me during the year was very great, amounting to 45·61 inches, and exceeded by nearly 25 per cent. my annual average.

	INCHES.		INCHES.		INCHES.
January,	3·75	May,	2·36	September,	1·47
February,	4·78	June,	1·69	*October,	5·67
March,	4·68	July,	5·27	*November,	6·61
April,	2·05	August,	3·50	December,	3·78

Total, 45·61 inches.

* Nearly 12 inches fell in three weeks.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

W. W. BALDOCK FRY, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Feb. 9th, 1895.